



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

March 6, 2012

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Joan Hartley, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

**HB 5392- AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE RESPONSE TO A DECLARED
STATE OF EMERGENCY**

***The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection strongly
supports the concepts and intention of the proposed legislation but feels an
existing statutory requirement for an emergency preparedness plan
accomplishes the intent of the bill.***

The bill raises a number of concepts that are very critical to emergency planning and preparedness, including the development of an Emergency Preparedness Plan to coordinate state and local resources in the event of an emergency declared by the Governor. The bill suggests that this plan should contain provisions regarding coordination of state resources, delineation of state and local roles and responsibilities, including jurisdictional issues related to debris management, and training and exercise requirements. These are all key components to emergency management. In fact, the State of Connecticut has a State Response Framework that provides delineation of roles and responsibilities for the state, local, federal, and private sectors. Part of the statutory mission of the DESPP Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is to provide an integrated, coordinated program of emergency management and homeland security, and the State Response Framework is part of that program. The Framework is composed of other emergency plans, such as the Natural Disaster Plan, and the State Debris Management Plan. Under Title 28, the state's comprehensive plan and program for emergency preparedness includes, among other things, training and exercise. (Connecticut General Statutes Section 28-5(c).)

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Joan Hartley, Co-Chairman
HB 5392
March 6, 2012
Page 2

Also, in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene and the October Nor'Easter, Governor Malloy directed the State Emergency Management Director, Bill Hackett, to institute an aggressive initiative to review and enhance emergency planning and preparedness in the State. This initiative includes a number of work groups, made up of state, local, federal, and private sector partners, who are working together to review and update state and local planning, training, and exercises, in light of lessons learned from the two most destructive storms to hit the State in recent memory. The initiative includes the creation of an All-Hazards Energy and Utilities Annex to the State Response Framework, as well as a statewide exercise scheduled for the end of July.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Reuben F. Bradford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "B".

Reuben F. Bradford
COMMISSIONER